

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6745

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD PL

SUBJECT: ANTI-DUMPING ON POLISH GOLF CARTS

REF: WARSAW 1253

1. I WAS CALLED TO VICE PREMIER OLSZEWSKI'S OFFICE FEB. 24 TO FOLLOW UP ON MY FEB. 18 DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE MINISTER STRZELECKI ON TREASURY'S GOLF-CART FINDING. OLSZEWSKI INFORMED ME HIS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GOLF-CART CASE AND WHAT IT INTERPRETED AS A MAJOR INCREASE IN PROTECTION-IST ACTIONS BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. HE CITED THE THREATENED ACTION ON SHOES, THE TIGHTENING QUOTAS ON STEEL, AND THE INCREASINGLY SEVERE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEXTILE QUOTAS. HE SAID THAT THE TREASURY FINDING ON GOLF CARTS WAS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY SEEMED TO REQUIRE THE SUSSPENSION OF GOLF-CART SHIPMENTS TO THE US, BUT ALSO MADE THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED POLISH EXPORTS TO THE US MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

2. THE VICE PREMIER SAID HE WOULD HAVE RAISED THIS MATTER IN THE US-POLISH TRADE COMMISSION, BUT THE MATTER REQUIRED URGENT ATTENTION BEFORE THE AUTUMN COMMISSION
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MEETING. MOREOVER, HE DID NOT YET KNOW WHO THE US CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD BE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE GOLF-CART CASE BECAUSE OF THE REASSURANCES ON THIS MATTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM FORMER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SIMON AND FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RICHARDSON. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK HAD SET AMBITIOUS TARGETS FOR GROWTH IN US-POLSIH

TRADE AND THAT US EXPORTS TO POLAND HAD INCREASED SEVEN-FOLD SINCE 1972, WHILE POLISH EXPORTS TO THE US HAD ONLY DOUBLED. IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOLF-CART CASE AND OTHER PROTECTIONIST STEPS, HIS GOVERNMENT NOW HAD TO ACCEPT THAT THE TARGET OF \$2 BILLION IN BILATERAL TURNOVER IN 1980 WAS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC. INDEED, IT MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER ABANDONING EFFORTS TO ENTER THE US MARKET. HIS GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER URGENTLY IN WHATEVER FORUM SEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE.

3. I TOLD THE VICE PREMIER THAT HIS IMPLIED INTERPRETATION OF RECENT US ACTIONS ON THE TRADE FRONT AS CONSTITUTING A MAJOR SWITCH TO PROTECTIONISM WAS NOT JUSTIFIED. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT HAD MANY OCCASIONS YET TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ATTITUDES, THE LIBERAL TRADE CREDENTIALS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS WERE WELL KNOWN.

4. THE VICE PREMIER AND I AGREED THAT PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE HIS DESIRE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE GOLF-CART AND RELATED TRADE MATTERS WOULD BE A VISIT BY A POLISH DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES. THE VICE PREMIER SAID THAT SUCH A DELEGATION WOULD BE READY TO LEAVE AS SOON AS I INFORMED HIM WHICH DATES WERE ACCEPTABLE. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE COMPOSED OF VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE STRZELECKI AND VICE MINISTER OF THE MACHINE INDUSTRY GORSKI.

5. COMMENT: THE VICE PREMIER WAS VISIBLY UPSET BY THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE GOLF-CART CASE AND GREATLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERNED ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE US-POLISH

ECONOMIC TIES. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT SOME SORT OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES, BUT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A DUTY WHICH VARIED FROM ZERO TO \$350 DURING A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS COULD BE CONSIDERED REASONABLE.

6. ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED POLISH DELEGATION WILL BE AT THE VICE-MINISTERIAL LEVEL, I URGE STRONGLY THAT IT BE RECEIVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE TREASURY AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS AND BY UNDER SECRETARY COOPER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. UNLESS THE DELEGATION IS RECEIVED AT THESE LEVELS, THE GOP WILL NOT FEEL THAT IT HAS RECEIVED AN ADEQUATE HEARING IN THIS MATTER, WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM ME WHEN A POLISH DELEGATION COULD BE RECEIVED AT THE LEVELS INDICATED.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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